IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DMITRY NARODETSKY	
1042 Alpena Road	
Philadelphia, PA 19115	

Plaintiff,

v.

CARDONE INDUSTRIES, INC. 5501 Whitaker Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19124

and

MICHAEL CARDONE, JR. c/o Cardone Industries, Inc. 5501 Whitaker Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19124

and

WILLIAM BOND c/o Cardone Industries, Inc. 5501 Whitaker Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19124

and

KELLY STIGELMAN c/o Cardone Industries, Inc. 5501 Whitaker Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19124

and

SHANNON SARRACINO c/o Cardone Industries, Inc. 5501 Whitaker Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19124

and

CIVIL ACTION

No. _____

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

DAN BOSWORTH c/o Cardone Industries, Inc. 5501 Whitaker Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19124

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Dmitry Narodetsky, (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby avers as follows:

I. Introduction

1. Plaintiff has initiated this action to redress violations by Cardone Industries, Inc., Michael Cardone, Jr., William Bond, Kelly Stigelman, Shannon Sarracino, Dan Bosworth, and (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants") of the Family and Medical Leave Act "FMLA" (29 U.S.C. § 2601)

II. Jurisdiction and Venue

- 2. This action is initiated pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). This Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants' contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of jurisdiction over Defendants to comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice, satisfying the standard set forth by the United States Supreme Court in <u>International Shoe Co. v. Washington</u>, 326 U.S. 310 (1945) and its progeny.
- 3. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania has original subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the claims arise under laws of the United States.

4. Venue is properly laid in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. sections 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), because Defendant resides in and/or conducts business in this judicial district and because a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district.

III. Parties

- 5. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
 - 6. Plaintiff is an adult with an address as set forth above.
- 7. Defendant Cardone Industries, Inc. ("Cardone") is a Pennsylvania corporation headquartered at the address in the caption.
 - 8. Cardone is a global supplier of automotive products.
- 9. At at all times relevant herein, Defendant Michael Cardone, Jr. was the acting president and CEO of Cardone.
- 10. Defendant Michael Cardone had the authority to prevent the termination of Plaintiff and had the authority to grant Plaintiff FMLA leave.
- 11. At all times relevant herein, Defendant Kelly Stigelman was Defendant's Manager of Health Benefits.
- 12. Defendant Stigelman exercised control over Plaintiff's request to take a protected medical leave.
- 13. At all times relevant herein, Defendant William Bond was the acting director of human resources.
- 14. Defendant Bond exercised control over Plaintiff's request to take a protected medical leave.

- 15. At all times relevant herein, Defendant Shannon Sarracino was Defendant's Human Resource Representative, and she exercised control over Plaintiff's termination and his taking of FMLA leave.
- 16. At all times relevant herein, Defendant Dan Bosworth was Defendant's Plant Manager, and he exercised control over Plaintiff's termination and his taking of FMLA leave.
- 17. At all times relevant herein, Cardone acted by and through its agents, servants, and employees, each of whom acted at all times relevant herein in the course and scope of their employment with and for the benefit of Cardone.

IV. Factual Background

- 18. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
 - 19. Plaintiff worked for Cardone for approximately twelve years.
 - 20. Plaintiff was most recently employed as a "tool designer" for Cardone.
 - 21. Plaintiff was terminated from Cardone on September 9, 2009.
- 22. On or about August 19, 2009, Plaintiff was diagnosed with a leg injury and was informed he would require surgery on his knee.
- 23. On or about August 24, 2009, Plaintiff's wife contacted Defendant Kelly Stigelman, Cardone's manager of Health Benefits, and informed her that Plaintiff would need time off for the anticipated operation.
- 24. Specifically, Plaintiff's wife requested that Plaintiff be given "short-term disability" for his upcoming medical leave.
- 25. On or about August 25, 2009, Defendants conducted a forensic computer search of Plaintiff's computer.

4

- 26. Upon information and belief, this forensic search was conducted to determine if Defendants could find any reason to justify the termination of Plaintiff.
- 27. Defendants intended to terminate Plaintiff because of his need to request FMLA leave.
- 28. On or about August 31, 2009, Plaintiff informed his supervisor, Luis Martinez, that he would need to take ten days off following his surgery.
- 29. Plaintiff contacted Martinez so he could arrange a time for the surgery that would be as convenient as possible for Defendants.
- 30. Plaintiff further contacted Martinez because he was unaware whether he would be afforded any protections or benefits because of his need to take leave.
- 31. Defendants never provided any individualized written notice concerning Plaintiff's rights and responsibilities under the FMLA.
- 32. On or about September 9, 2009, Plaintiff had a scheduled appointment with his medical doctor relating to the anticipated surgery.
- 33. On the same day, but prior to the appointment, Plaintiff was called into a meeting (hereinafter "September 9 meeting").
- 34. Defendants Dan Bosworth, Shannon Sarracino, and William Bond were present at the September 9 meeting.
- 35. Defendants showed an email which Plaintiff allegedly forwarded to another employee more than one year prior, in July of 2008.
- 36. Prior to September 9, 2009, Plaintiff had received no written discipline from Defendants.

- 37. Defendants fired Plaintiff at the September 9 meeting, allegedly because he sent the aforementioned email.
- 38. Upon information and belief, Defendants did not fire each and every other employee who forwarded the aforementioned email.
- 39. Defendants fired Plaintiff to prevent him from taking FMLA leave and in retaliation for requesting FMLA leave and for requesting benefits under an ERISA protected plan.

First Cause of Action Family and Medical Leave Act (Interference & Retaliation Violations) (Against All Defendants)

- 40. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 41. Plaintiff was clearly an eligible employee under the definitional terms of the Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2611(2)(a)(i)(ii).
- 42. Plaintiff requested leave from Cardone, his employer, with whom he had been employed for at least twelve (12) months pursuant to the requirements of 29 U.S.C.A. § 2611(2)(i).
- 43. Further, Plaintiff had at least 1,250 hours of service with Cardone during the prior twelve (12) months.
- 44. Cardone is engaged in an industry affecting commerce and employs fifty (50) or more employees for each working day during each of the twenty (20) or more calendar work weeks in the current or proceeding calendar year, pursuant to 29 U.S.C.A. § 2611(4)(A)(i).
- 45. Plaintiff was entitled to receive leave pursuant to 29 U.S.C.A. § 2612 (a)(1) for a total of twelve (12) work weeks of leave.

- 46. Defendants violated the FMLA by failing to provide Plaintiff with an individualized notification of his FMLA rights and obligations when he placed Defendants on notice of his need to take a qualifying leave.
- 47. Defendants further failed to engage in a good-faith interactive process with Plaintiff about his need(s) for leave.
- 48. Defendants further fired Plaintiff less than two weeks after Plaintiff informed his supervisors that he would need medical leave for a FMLA-qualifying reason.
- 49. Defendants interfered with Plaintiff's FMLA rights by preventing and restraining Plaintiff from taking a FMLA-qualifying leave.
 - 50. Defendants' actions as aforesaid constitute interference violations of the FMLA.
- 51. Defendants also retaliated against Plaintiff by terminating him less than two weeks after he provided notice to Defendants of his need to take FMLA leave.

Second Cause of Action <u>Violations of ERISA/COBRA</u> (Against Cardone)

- 52. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
 - 53. Plaintiff was a participant as that term is defined under ERISA.
- 54. At all times relevant herein, Defendant's employee benefits constituted ERISA-covered employment plans and/or welfare plans.
- 55. Upon information and belief, Defendant misrepresented the reason(s) for Plaintiff's separation to its COBRA administrator.
- 56. Upon information and belief, Defendant informed its third party administrator that Plaintiff voluntary left his employment.

7

- 57. As a result of the third party administrator reporting that Plaintiff left voluntarily, Plaintiff was denied benefits pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which otherwise would have provided 65% of Plaintiff's premium payments.
- 58. Defendant's actions as aforesaid therefore constitute violations of ERISA and COBRA.

Third Cause of Action Violations of ERISA (Retaliation) (Against all Defendants)

- 59. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 60. Defendants improperly and impermissibly interfered with Plaintiff's group health plan by cancelling benefits, and by terminating Plaintiff to avoid its obligations under the ERISA-governed plan.
 - 61. Cardone's short-term disability insurance plan is governed by ERISA.
- 62. Defendants terminated Plaintiff for requesting benefits pursuant to Cardone's short-term disability plan.
 - 63. Defendants' aforementioned conduct violated ERISA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court enter an order providing that:

- A. Defendants are to be prohibited from continuing to maintain its illegal policy, practice, or custom of discriminating against employees based on their use of the FMLA, and are to be ordered to promulgate an effective policy against such discrimination and to adhere thereto;
- B. Defendants are to compensate Plaintiff, reimburse Plaintiff, and make Plaintiff whole for any and all pay and benefits Plaintiff would have received had it not been for

Defendants' illegal actions, including but not limited to back pay, front pay, salary, pay increases, bonuses, medical and other benefits, training, promotions, pension, and seniority. Plaintiff should be accorded those benefits illegally withheld from the date he first suffered discrimination at the hands of Defendants until the date of verdict;

- C. Plaintiff is to be awarded liquidated damages as permitted by applicable law, in an amount believed by the Court or trier of fact to be appropriate to punish Defendants for their willful, deliberate, malicious and outrageous conduct, and to deter Defendants or other employers from engaging in such misconduct in the future;
- D. Plaintiff is to be accorded any and all other equitable and legal relief as the Court deems just, proper, and appropriate;
- E. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action and reasonable legal fees as provided by applicable federal and state law;
- F. Any verdict in favor of Plaintiff is to be molded by the Court to maximize the financial recovery available to Plaintiff in light of the caps on certain damages set forth in applicable federal law;
- G. Plaintiff's claims are to receive a trial by jury to the extent allowed by applicable law. Plaintiff has also endorsed this demand on the caption of this Complaint in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

Respectfully submitted,

KARPF, KARPF & VIRANT, P.C.

By:

Justin L. Swidler, Esq. 3070 Bristol Pike Building 2, Suite 231 Bensalem, PA 19020 (215) 639-0801

Dated: October 15, 2009

APPENDIX I

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Dmitry	Narodetsky	CIVIL ACTION		
Cardone Inc	Narodetsky Justines, Inc., al.	NO.		
In accordance with the plaintiff shall complete side of this form.) designation, that def	he Civil Justice Expense and De ete a case Management Track Des indserve a copy on all defendants. In the event that a defendant do	lay Reduction Plan of this court, counsels ignation Form in all civil cases at the time (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse not agree with the plaintiff regarding ance, submit to the clerk of court and serve track designation form specifying the track designation form specifying the track designation form.	rerse said re on	
SELECT ONE OF	THE FOLLOWING CASE MA	NAGEMENT TRACKS:		
	– Cases brought under 28 U.S.C.			- 1986 - 0
(b) Social Security and Human Ser	— Cases requesting review of a de vices denying plaintiff Social Sec	ecision of the Secretary of Health curity Benefits	()	
		arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()	
(d) Asbestos – Case exposure to asbe	es involving claims for personal i	njury or property damage from		
	reverse side of this form for a dec		()	
(f) Standard Mana	gement – Cases that do not fall in	to any one of the other tracks.	(XX)	
1015 200 Date (215) 639-08 Telephone	Attorney-at-law (215) 639-497 FAX Number	Plaintiff Attorney for SWGUV & KUVA E-Mail Address		COM

Case 2:09-cv-04734-TON Document 1 Filed 10/15/09 Page 12 of APENDIX F UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

UNITED STATES DE	ISTRICT COOKS
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM assignment to appropriate calendar. Address of Plaintiff: DAZ ALDANO ROOM, PARAMETERS AND PARAMETERS AND ROOM, PARAMETERS AND PARAMETERS AND PARAMETERS AND PA	A to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case of an paper.
DEVINIONAL HARAILE	Much
Address of Defendant Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: (Use Reverse Side Incident)	DIOCE OF VOSITIONS.
Place of Accident, indicate of Transaction (Use Reverse State I	For Additional Space) tion and any nublicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporate (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with FedR Civil	Yes□ No. No.
	Yes II
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	Turnicated
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated
	ons:
and the design of the design o	ithin one year providesty
Is this case related to property and Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction	as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated
action in this court? 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or	any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously
3. Does this case involve the various of miningoment of	Xe2 1400
terminated action in this court?	
CIVIL: (Place in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:
h Faderal Overtion Cases:	 Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	2 Aimplane Personal Injury
2 D FELA	3. Assault, Defamation
3. I Jones Act-Personal Injury	4. Marine Personal Injury
4. Antitrust	5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
5. Patent	6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
6. Labor-Management Relations	7. Products Liability
7. Civil Rights	8. Products Liability — Asbestos
8. Habeas Corpus	9. All other Diversity Cases
9. Decurities Act(s) Cases	(Please specify)
10. D Social Security Review Cases	(Time of any)
11. All other Federal Question Cases	
(Please specify)	was a mit ob I
ARBITRATIO	N CERTIFICATION
	propriate Category) o hereby certify:
I, JUJI W NOT CO C vin 2(0)(2) that to Albest of	my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case
Pursuantto Local Civil Rule 33.2, Section 7(E)(25) and exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	2009104
exceed the sum of \$150,000,000 exceeds to exceed the sum of \$150,000,000 exceeds the sum of \$150,000 e	K10200
10/15/2000 / + 2M	
DATE:Attorney-at-Law	
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by ju	ry only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a diable, your learning that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now	v pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not I class except as noted above.	1510360
DATE: 1015/200	2000
	201151

SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

T (-) DI AINTENERO		DEFENDAN	JTC		
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		i	DEFENDANTS CARRONE INCLUSTRICS INC. 1		
NARODETSKY, DMITRY		CARDONE	INDUSTRIES, INC., et a	l.	
(b) County of Residence	e of First Listed Plaintiff Philadelphia	County of Resid	ence of First Listed Defendant	Philadelphia	
(c) Attorney's (Firm Na	nme, Address, Telephone Number and Email Add	ress)			
		NOTE: IN	N LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, U LAND INVOLVED.	JSE THE LOCATION OF THE	
	lwartz, 3070 Bristol Pike, Building 2 Su 20, (215) 639-0801, jswidler@karpf-la	inc	AND INVOLVED.		
201, Delisalelli FA 190	20, (213) 039-0001, jswidici@kaipi-ia	Attorneys (If Know	vn)		
II. BASIS OF JURISI	DICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP	OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES	S(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
☐ 1 U.S. Government	■ 3 Federal Question	(For Diversity Cases	Only) PTF DEF	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF	
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of This State	☐ 1 ☐ 1 Incorporated or F	Principal Place	
☐ 2 U.S. Government	☐ 4 Diversity	Citizen of Another State	☐ 2 ☐ 2 Incorporated and	Principal Place	
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		of Business In	Another State	
		Citizen or Subject of a	□ 3 □ 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6	
IV NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	Foreign Country			
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENA	LTY BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
☐ 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJUR		☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	☐ 400 State Reapportionment	
☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice			☐ 410 Antitrust ☐ 430 Banks and Banking	
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability			☐ 450 Commerce	
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment			PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights	☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and	
☐ 151 Medicare Act	330 Federal Employers' Injury Product Liability Liability	☐ 650 Airline Regs.	☐ 830 Patent ☐ 840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations	
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability Liability 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPER	TY 660 Occupational Safety/Health	540 Trademark	□ 480 Consumer Credit□ 490 Cable/Sat TV	
(Excl. Veterans)	☐ 345 Marine Product ☐ 370 Other Fraud ☐ 371 Truth in Lending	☐ 690 Other LABOR	SOCIAL SECURITY	☐ 810 Selective Service ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/	
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	350 Motor Vehicle 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal	☐ 710 Fair Labor Standard		Exchange	
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage Product Liability ☐ 385 Property Damage		□ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	☐ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410	
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability		☐ 730 Labor/Mgmt.Repor	ting	☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions	
☐ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY	Injury CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITION	& Disclosure Act NS	☐ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS	□ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 892 Economic Stabilization Act	
☐ 210 Land Condemnation	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 510 Motions to Vacat	e 🗇 790 Other Labor Litigat	ion	☐ 893 Environmental Matters	
☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	✓ 442 Employment Sentence ☐ 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus:	☐ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party	☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act ☐ 895 Freedom of Information	
240 Torts to Land	Accommodations 530 General		26 USC 7609	Act	
245 Tort Product Liability290 All Other Real Property	☐ 444 Welfare ☐ 535 Death Penalty ☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - ☐ 540 Mandamus & Oth	immigration are 462 Naturalization App	lication	☐ 900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access	
2 250 m o mor nom 110 pany	Employment	☐ 463 Habeas Corpus -		to Justice	
	☐ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - ☐ 555 Prison Condition Other	Alien Detainee 465 Other Immigration		☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	Actions			
	an "X" in One Box Only)		Transferred from 7.6 Multidist	Appeal to District	
	tate Court Appellate Court	Reopened	another district Litigation	Magistrata	
VI CALICE OF ACTI	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you a Family and Medical Leave Act (2	29 U.S.C. 2601) ""S"	ictional statutes unless diversity).		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	Violations of the Family and Med	lical Leave Act.			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	y if demanded in complaint: D: ☑ Yes ☐ No	
VIII. RELATED CAS	SE(S) (See instructions): JUDGE	Λ.	DOCKET NUMBER		
Explanation:					
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